

How to sell your old gold jewellery

We've all seen the adverts on TV urging us to trade in our unwanted jewellery, but what's the best way to do it? We took a look at some of the options...

● GOLD PARTIES

You can sell your gold in your own home by hosting a gold party. Register with a company and invite your friends round with their unwanted gold, for some drinks and nibbles. The company will send a gold expert to your home and set up gold-testing equipment. They will weigh the gold and make an offer to buy it. For more information visit www.ounces2pounds.co.uk or www.yourgoldparty.co.uk

● PAWN SHOPS

These have been thriving during the credit crunch, as banks and credit-card firms become more selective about whom they lend to. Pawn shops lend people money against items they put down as collateral. When they repay the loan plus interest, they get the item back – if they don't, the pawnbroker keeps it. Most pawnbrokers charge 8 per cent a month – £8 on a £100 loan. To find your nearest pawnbroker, look through the Yellow Pages, or visit www.thempa.com

● BY POST

The most convenient way to make money from your gold is to pop it in the post. Companies like PostalGold.com buy unwanted gold jewellery for melting down. Just send them your jewellery in the post and they'll analyse how

much pure gold is in it. They then calculate your payout based on the current market price, and make you a cash offer. Request a Gold Kit online or by post, then complete the return form and post your jewellery, with no charge, using the pre-paid, insured envelope. If you accept, a cheque is sent out or a bank transfer made within 24 hours. If you don't, they'll post the gold back. Make sure you use a reputable company. For more information, visit www.postalgold.com

● CAR-BOOT SALE

The credit crunch has given a boost to car-boot sales, as people sell their unwanted

possessions to make ends meet. And it's not just crockery and clothing that's snapped up – it's jewellery, too. Most good car-boot sales charge a fee for a pitch (from £10 to £20). These vary in size, from those big enough to fit a small car, to spaces large enough for vans. They usually start very early in the morning and they have to be booked in advance. To find out more information, visit www.carbootsales.org



'I sold my old gold jewellery and made £950'

Mum-of-three Nikki Eaglestone, 52, from Potter's Bar, was shocked to find her unwanted jewellery was worth so much

jewellery box and managed to find a few pieces – belcher chains, broken necklaces and odd earrings.

The gold party was a really fun, girly night. There were 16 of us in one room having a catch-up over wine and nibbles, while Howard, from Your Gold Party, was in another, weighing

the gold. It was private and he explained everything clearly. He said the gold would be melted down, so he was buying it at scrap price. I expected my stuff to be worth around £250, so when he told me that it was worth £950, I was totally gobsmacked. He paid me for it in

cash straightaway, and I felt safe doing it.

I didn't get back anywhere near what my husband had spent on it all, but what's the point of holding on to stuff you don't wear? Now I have money to treat the family to lots of nice Christmas presents – and some for me, too!